Fixing the Level of Metals in Ayurvedic, Siddha and Unani Medicines

†385. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to make it compulsory to fix the quantity of metals in Ayurvedic, Unani and Siddha medicines and display it on drug packets; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it would be enforced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Government has issued an order on 14th October, 2005 in the interest of public health under section 33 EEB of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 for mandatory testing of heavy metals namely, arsenic, lead, mercury and cadimium for export purposes in respect of every batch of purely herbal Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani drugs by every licencee and conspicuous display on the container of purely herbal Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani drugs to be exported the "HEAVY METALS WITHIN PERMISSIBLE LIMITS " will be mandatory *w.e.f.* 1.1.2006. This is a process of self-certifcation for export purpsoes and the A.S.U. drug manufacturer will be held responsible if proper batch-wise testing is not done before self-certification. This process of self-certification would be extended for sale within the country in due course.

Treatment of Diseases by PHCs in Uttar Pradesh

†386.PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the Primary Health Centres working in the State of Uttar Pradesh are competent enough to deal with the manace of Malaria, Dengue fever, Hepatitis-B, Gastro-enteritis, AIDS, TB, Cancer and other malignant diseases;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the effective steps proposed to be taken by Government to develop these health centres and to bring about improvement in them?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Primary Health Centres (PHCs) are equipped to provide curative, preventive and promotive health care services in the rural areas and facilities for treatment of common diseases like malaria, fever, Gastro-enteritis, T.B.etc. PHCs are manned by trained medical & para-medical staff for managing the locally prevalent diseases like malaria, dengue etc. Cases with diseases requiring specialty treatment, like cancer, Hepatitis-B etc. are referred to speciality referral hospitals. However, there are difficulties due to shortage of manpower, equipment etc. in many of the PHCs in the State.

(c) The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) which was launched by the Govt. in April, 2005 proposes to strengthen rural health care institutions in the country including the PHCs for effective curative, care & made measurable & accountable to the community through Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS).

The Mission seeks to strengthen PHCs to provide a package of essential public health programmes and support for outreach services to ensure regular supplies of essential drugs and equipment, round the clock services in at least 50% of PHCs across the country, upgrading single doctor PHC to 2 doctors PHC by posting AYUSH practitioners at PHC level and providing standard treatment protocols and training medical officers and para-medical workers in their use.

Fund allocation for Primary Health Centres

†387. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds sanctioned, allocated and actually utilized for the setting up of Primary Health Centres in the State of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years; district-wise and year-wise;

(b) the number of health centres opened, so far, and the details of expenditure incurred thereon in the State; and

(c) the total funds granted by Government for Uttar Pradesh during the current year?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.